

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199111 TOSEC 090038

FOLLOWING REPEAT LAGOS 9475 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN,
DAR ES SALAAM, GABORONE, LONDON, LUSAKA, MAPUTO, OTTAWA,
PARIS, PRETORIA, USUN NEW YORK 21 AUG 77

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 9475

FROM USDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, UN, US

SUBJECT: LAGOS CONFERENCE: FMG POSITION ON DRAFT DECLARATION

REF: USUN 2631 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: YOUNG, MOOSE, EASUM, COOKS AND PETTERSON MET THIS
EVENING (AUGUST 21) WITH NIGERIAN UN PERMREP HARRIMAN AND
COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFS RS GARBA. WHILE READY TO MAKE A
FEW CONCESSIONS ON THE LANGUAGE OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION, THE
NIGERIANS WANT A STRONG DECLARATION, SAY THEY HAVE CONSIDERABLE
SUPPORT FROM MANY WEO'S, VERY MUCH WANT US SUPPORT, AND ARE
PREPARED TO FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UK
IF THE LATTER DOES NOT TAKE A MORE FORTHRIGHT STAND AGAINST
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APARTHEID. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE HOUR-LONG MEETING, HARRIMAN (GARBA ARRIVED NEAR
THE END OF THE DISCUSSION) NOTED THAT THE POSITION HE WAS TAKING
WAS FULLY SUPPORTED BY GENERAL OBASANJO. HE SAID OBASANJO'S
OPENING SPEECH TOMORROW MORNING WOULD REFLECT THIS. HE SAID
THAT THE FMG DID NOT WANT TO DEAL WITH THE FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS

OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AS A GROUP, BUT AS INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS.
IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID NIGERIA VERY MUCH WANTED TO WORK
COOPERATIVELY WITH THE US IN MOVING AHEAD WITH THE PURPOSE OF
THE CONFERENCE.

3. WE DID NOT GET INTO A BARGAINING SESSION ON THE DRAFT
DECLARATION, BUT DID HEAR OUT HARRIMAN'S PRESENTATION OF THE
FMG'S REACTION TO THE AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED BY THE FIVE.
SPECIFICALLY, THE FMG WILL NOT DEPART SIGNIFICANTLY FROM
REFERENCES TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AS A "MINORITY
REGIME" OR "RACIST REGIME." HARRIMAN MAINTAINED THAT THE US
HAS SUPPORTED UN RESOLUTIONS IN WHICH SIMILAR TERMINOLOGY WAS
USED.

4. HARRIMAN AGREED TO DELETE OR COMPLETELY RE-PHASE PARA 17,
AND TO ACCEPT OUR WORDING FOR THE FIRST PART OF PARA 16. BUT
HE SAID THE FMG DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY WE COULD NOT SUPPORT
LANGUAGE CALLING FOR ASSISTANCE TO STATES WHICH HAVE SUFFERED
FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION OF UN RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION AGAINST
APARTHEID (E.G., MOZAMBIQUE, ZAMBIA). HE SAID IT WAS
POINTLESS TO REFER GENERALLY TO COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BEEN
THREATENED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER FOR THEIR "OPPOSITION " TO
APARTHEID (ALL STATES, HE SAID, OPPOSE APARTHEID).

5. OUR BIGGEST PROBLEMS ARE LIKELY TO CENTER AROUND PARAS
20 (ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION) AND 22 (ON INVESTMENTS AND LOANS).
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HARRIMAN STATED THAT THE AFRICANS WANT A TOTAL CESSATION OF ALL
FORMS OF COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. AS FOR INVESTMENTS
AND LOANS, HE SAID, "WE ARE PREPARED TO PUT THE WORD "NEW"
BEFORE INVESTMENTS."

6. HARRIMAN ALSO BROUGHT UP OUR WISH TO DELETE THE WORDS
"TO SELF-DETERMINATION" AFTER "INALIENABLE RIGHTS." HE
MAINTAINED THAT SELF-DETERMINATION "IS NOT A LOCUTION RELATED
ONLY TO COLONIAL SITUATIONS."

7. HE ALSO MAINTAINED THAT THE AFRICANS SAW NO VALID REASON
TO DELETE THE REFERENCE IN PARA 24 TO "LIBERATION GROUPS."

8. COMMENT: THERE MAY BE ROOM FOR SOME COMPROMISES ON THE
WORDING OF THE DECLARATION, BUT, IF THIS TALK WITH HARRIMAN IS
ANY INDICATION, THE NIGERIANS FEEL THEY HAVE PREPARED AND
FOUGHT FOR A RELATIVELY RESTRAINED DOCUMENT AND ARE NOT INCLINED
TO MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIVE ALTERATIONS - UNLESS WE CAN GIVE THEM
SOME COMPELLING REASON TO DO SO. AGAIN, THEY PARTICULARLY
WANT OUR COOPERATION, A REFLECTION OF THEIR MARKEDLY IMPROVED
ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US (HARRIMAN SAID OBASANJO STRESSES THIS
POINT AND WANTS TO INVITE PRESIDENT CARTER TO VISIT NIGERIA NEXT

YEAR). AND THEY ARE APPARENTLY READY TO GO TO THE MAT WITH THE
BRITISH ON THE APARTHEID ISSUE, HARRIMAN SAID, "IF THE BRITISH
ARE NOT READY TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION, WE ARE PREPARED TO
LEAVE THE COMMONWEALTH." HE STRESSED THAT OBASANJO HAS AGREED
TO THIS. THE BRITISH, HARRIMAN ADDED, WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE
BETWEEN NIGERIA AND SOUTH AFRICA.
EASUM

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